

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 /012 R

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN/CR:MMBOVA

APPROVED BY: ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS FOR ROBERT ROSENSTOCK US LEGAL DIVISION ONLY

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT SAN JOSE 3356, SENT SECSTATE, INFO GUATEMALA,
MANAGUA, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA, PANAMA 9 JULY:

QUOTE UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3356

DEPT. PASS JUSTICE FOR U.S. ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT
OF NEW YORK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: WILKINS/VESCO STORY

REF: SAN JOSE 3312

1. FOLLOWING IS ENGLISH VERSION OF ACTING PAO'S LETTER
TO EXCELSIOR (PUBLISHED JULY 9) IN RESPONSE TO THAT PAPER'S
LATEST CHAPTER OF WILKINS/VESCO STORY.

2. QUOTE: DEAR MR. EDITOR: I WRITE WITH REFERENCE TO
THE JULY 7 ARTICLE IN EXCELSIOR ON THE SUPPOSED "SWORN
DECLARATION" OF MR. JAMES WILKINS MADE SOMEWHERE IN
THE UNITED STATES (IT IS UNCLEAR AT WHOSE BEHEST OR
PRODDING THIS DOCUMENT HAS APPEARED, BUT IT MAY EASILY
BE SUPPOSED). THIS LETTER ALSO CONCERNS WILKINS' MISSION
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IN COSTA RICA, AND THE ALLEGATIONS THAT EXCELSIOR

PERSISTS IN PRINTING ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THIS MATTER IN SPITE OF THE EMBASSY'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THIS EMBASSY THAT EXCELSIOR'S CHARGES THAT MR. WILKINS' MAY 21 DECLARATION IN NEW YORK WAS GIVEN "UNDER PRESSURE" IS "INEXACT," CONTAINS "IMPORTANT OMISSIONS," OR REPRESENTS AN EFFORT TO "CONFUSE AND COVER UP THE FACTS," IS PATENTLY FALSE, AS IS SO MUCH OF WHAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE SO-CALLED "INVESTIGATIVE SERIES".

MR. WILKINS VOLUNTEERED ALL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THAT DECLARATION, WHICH HE SIGNED FREELY ON MAY 21 -- REGARDLESS OF ANYTHING HE MAY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO SAY SUBSEQUENTLY. WITH RESPECT TO EXCELSIOR'S CHARGE THAT REFERENCES TO A KIDNAP OR ASSASSINATION PLOT WERE DELIBERATELY OMITTED FROM THE MAY 21 DECLARATION, WE CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO WILKINS' SPECIFIC STATEMENT THAT IT WAS "TOTALLY UNTRUE" THAT SUCH PLANS WERE EVEN DISCUSSED AS A POSSIBILITY WITH U.S. OFFICIALS. WITH REGARD TO THE FINAL ARTICLE IN YOUR SERIES, IT IS REplete WITH FALSEHOODS, OMISSIONS, HALF-TRUTHS, AND INSULTS THAT REFER TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES, THIS EMBASSY, AND INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS THEREOF, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR. THIS TYPE OF JOURNALISM IS NOT WORTHY OF FURTHER CONSIDERATION OR MORE DETAILED REPLY BY THE EMBASSY OR BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AS YOUR READERS BY NOW HAVE SURMISED, THE ENTIRE SERIES OBVIOUSLY IS PART OF AN ONGOING, ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN BEING WAGED BY AND FOR A NOTED FUGITIVE FROM U.S. JUSTICE. WE REGRET VERY MUCH THAT EXCELSIOR HAS LENT ITSELF TO SUCH A CAMPAIGN. THIS LETTER, LIKE THE PREVIOUS LETTERS OF THE EMBASSY SPOKESMAN, REPRESENTS THE POSITION OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN SAN JOSE, AND INDEED OF THE ENTIRE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS TO YOUR READERS AND OF JOURNALISTIC BALANCE, WE REQUEST THAT IT BE PUBLISHED. SINCERELY (SIGNED) CONRAD STOLZENBACH,/"4., ACTING UNCLASSIFIED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ASSASSINATION, KIDNAPPING, EXTRADITION, ARRESTS, AFFIDAVITS, INFORMANTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE171568
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CEN/CR:MMBOVA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-1213
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760767/aaaachea.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 SAN JOSE 3312
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schaeafj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by schaeafj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WILKINS/VESCO STORY
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS, (WILKINS, JAMES), (VESCO, ROBERT)
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006